Unauthorised sale of bio-diesel

552. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has asked the State Governments to ensure that unauthorized sale and possession of bio-diesel in the market is checked and eliminated;

(b) if so, whether the Railways and the Brihan Mumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking have floated tenders for purchase of bio-diesel;

(c) whether lack of clarity on Government policy over bio-diesel has put a number of bio-diesel units in the county in total confusion; and

(d) whether bio-diesel making units wishing to open up fuel dispensing stations are not able to get clearance certificate from Fire Brigade authorities as bio-diesel finds no mention in Fire Brigade fuel storage manual?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Yes, Sir. In terms of the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005, all the State Governments/Union Territories have been advised to take suitable action immediately in order to curb unauthorized marketing of bio-diesel for use as transportation fuel.

(b) The Ministry of Railways and the Brihan Mumbai Electric Supply & Transport Undertaking have reported that they have floated tenders for the procurement of bio-diesel.

(c) This Ministry has formulated Bio-diesel Purchase Policy to lend support to the activities for blending of bio-diesel in diesel and marketing of such blended fuel. As per Bio-diesel Purchase Policy, *w.e.f.* 01.01.2006, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) shall purchase bio-diesel (B100), through its selected twenty purchase centres, which meet the fuel quality standard prescribed in the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) specification at a price declared by OMCs periodically.

(d) The Bio-diesel Purchase Policy and the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Order, 2005 do not allow the manufacturers of biodiesel to resort to direct retail marketing of B-100 product to automobile vehicles fitted with spark ignition engines or compression ignition engines. Biodiesel (B100), complying with IS15607: 2005 is exclusively meant for being blended with HSD (IS 1460), within the prescribed limits. Hence, marketing of bio-diesel (B100) which is basically a blend stock for Automotive Diesel Fuel in pure form is not covered under IS15607: 2005.

Since no person/biodiesel manufacturers are allowed to open up fuel dispensing stations for direct retail marketing of biodiesel to automobile vehicles, the question of getting clearance certificate from Fire Brigade authorities does not arise.